

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

December 4, 1964

MEMORANDUM TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

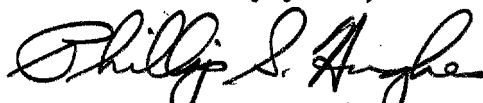
Attention: Legislative Liaison Officer

In 1955, the Congress authorized the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress to conduct a program of studies to provide the groundwork for a general revision of the U. S. Copyright Law. Many of the resulting studies, reports and panel proceedings have since been published by the House and Senate Judiciary Committees for the convenience of persons interested in the copyright revision. As a culmination of the efforts of the Copyright Office, S. 3008 and H.R. 11947, identical bills "For the general revision of the Copyright Law, title 17 of the United States Code, and for other purposes," were introduced in the Congress on July 20, 1964.

Section 4 of the proposed legislation is of particular interest to executive agencies since it defines the subject matter of copyright with respect to United States Government works. The question of what constitutes a "Government publication" in which copyright is prohibited under present statutes (17 USC 8 and 44 USC 58), was one of the subjects of special study by the Copyright Office and also has been the subject of recent review in the executive branch. This review was undertaken for the purpose of developing a single Federal policy with respect to copyright in material produced in connection with Government activities. The results of the review are outlined in our letter of December 3, 1964, to the Register of Copyrights. Prior to its release the letter was circulated informally for the concurrence of principal agencies concerned.

In general, the consensus of agency views, as expressed in the letter to the Register, is reflected in the provisions of section 4 of the Senate and House bills. A copy of the letter is being forwarded to each executive agency for information and guidance.

Sincerely yours,



Phillip S. Hughes  
Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference

Attachment: